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Application No. 10/500,947
Amendment September 13, 2006
Reply to Final Rejection of June 13, 2006

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A die plate for a stamping machine, the die plate including:

a plate steel back to be secured to the machine;

a metal impression layer secured to the steel back and to engage a substrate to impart an image thereto upon pressure being applied to the die plate and substrate by the machine; and

a compressible adhesive in contact with the impression layer and the steel back securing the impression layer to the steel back.

Claim 2 (original): The die plate of claim 1 wherein the compressible adhesive is an acrylic polymer.

Claim 3 (original): The die plate of claim 1 wherein the adhesive is an epoxy resin.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The die plate of claim 1 wherein its compressible adhesive is a phenolic-based resin.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The die plate of claim 1 wherein the impression layer is formed of brass, steel, copper, zinc, magnesium, aluminum or photo-polymer.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The die plate of claim 1 wherein said die plate has iron embedded in the adhesive.

Claim 7 (original): The die plate of claim 6 wherein the iron embedded in said adhesive is in a particle form.

Claim 8 (original): The die plate of claim 6 wherein the iron embedded in said adhesive is in the form of a mesh.

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Claim 9 (original): The die plate of claim 6 wherein the iron embedded in said adhesive is in the form of a perforated plate.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The die plate of claim 1 wherein the plate has thickness of about 0.25 mm to about 1 mm.

Claim 11 (original): The die plate of claim 10 wherein the die plate has a thickness of about 0.25 mm.

Claim 12 (original): The die plate of claim 10 wherein the die plate has a thickness of about 0.6 mm.

Claim 13 (new): The die plate of claim 1 wherein compressible adhesive only is disposed between the impression layer and the steel back.